

Story 1702 (1993 Tape 5)

Narrator: Sabit Uzun

Location: Trabzon, Trabzon
Province (at bakery
that was front for
arrangement of
call-girl
appointments)

Date: June 1993

Collected by Jo Ann Conrad

The Roomy Home of Temel's¹ Family

One day a teacher was talking with his class about living conditions in their area. He asked all of the students about the homes in which they lived. When it was Temel's turn to be questioned, the teacher asked, "Temel, how many brothers and sisters do you have?"

Temel answered, "I have five."

teacher then asked, "Is there enough room for everyone in your house?"

yes," said Temel. "In fact, all of us children have separate rooms and there are extra rooms to spare. That is why it is so strange that our parents both sleep in the same room.

¹Temel is the most popular male name among the Laz people, a large ethnic minority living principally in Rize and Trabzon provinces in extreme notheastern Turkey. Temel is such a common name in that region that in folk-tales it is virtually a synonym for Laz. The Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, though in fact they are no different from other people.